



PRESS RELEASE

Draft Press Release

WCMC-Q Announces 'Healing Hands' Contest Winners

Doha, 16 June 2008 – Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) has announced the winners of its first annual high school essay contest. For submitting equally outstanding essays, Mohammad Hajji from Middle-East International School and Alaa Al-Na'ama from Al Bayan Secondary School for Girls were selected.

Under this year's inaugural theme, 'Healing Hands: Being a Doctor in Qatar', WCMC-Q opened the contest to high school students to encourage them to share their thoughts on what it would mean to be doctors in Qatar and what are the particular issues that might affect a physician practicing in the country. Over 75 entries were received with special mention for the top 20 at a special ceremony at the college.

Mohammad and Alaa received the Doctor of the Future Summer Scholarship: a fully funded, two-week experience at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City, where they will visit research laboratories and spend time with distinguished Weill Cornell physicians. The two set off in July for the experience of a lifetime.

Commenting on a specially recorded video link all the way from New York, Dr. Ronald G. Crystal, M.D., Professor of Genetic Medicine at WCMC-NY, said: "All the entries were excellent and it was interesting to see how doctors are perceived by high school students. I congratulate you all on the effort you put into this and look forward to welcoming the winners to our research labs in New York City. We want to encourage the younger generations of Qatar to become doctors. This is very important for Qatar and its future."

Speaking after the announcement, contest winner Mohammad Hajji said: "I would like to thank Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned and His Highness, the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, for the opportunities that they are creating for us in the country. I would also like to thank my parents for their support and WCMC-Q for making such opportunities available to us."

Alaa Al-Na'ama, commented: "WCMC-Q has brought forward a new generation of doctors to Qatar. This contest was my first step into realizing my dream of becoming a doctor and I am very happy to have succeeded. I am very grateful to WCMC-Q."

"These students are the future of Qatar, and many of them will hopefully be WCMC-Q students dedicated to becoming physicians. We wish Mohammed & Alaa every success on their journey to New York City and hope this further inspires them towards the medical profession," said Dr. Maya M. Hammoud, Senior Associate Dean for Education, WCMC-Q.

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About Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar

Established by Cornell University in partnership with Qatar Foundation, WCMC-Q is part of Weill Cornell Medical College. A member of the Ivy League, Cornell is the first American university to offer its M.D. degree overseas. WCMC-Q offers a complete and integrated educational program, comprising the two-year Pre-medical Program, followed by the four-year Medical Program, with teaching by Cornell faculty. There is a separate admissions process for each Program, guided by the standards of admission in use at Cornell University in Ithaca and its Medical College in New York City.

Website: www.qatar-med.cornell.edu

About Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development

Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, and chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, Qatar Foundation is a private, non-profit organization committed to the principle that a nation's greatest natural resource is its people.

The headquarters of Qatar Foundation are located within its flagship project, Education City, a fourteen million square-meter campus which hosts numerous progressive learning institutions and centers of research, including branch campuses of five of the world's leading universities, plus a cutting-edge research and development center. Qatar Foundation also works to enhance the quality of life in Qatar by investing in community health and development.

For more information please visit: <http://www.qf.org.qa/>

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